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## MS 76 Box 12 Notebook 21 - Personal writings for Wayne County News by F. B. Lambert, 1950; the William Morrises

Fred Bussey Lambert

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MS 76  
BX 12  
NBK 21

Personal Writings  
for Wayne Co. News  
By  
F. B. Lambert  
1950.

The Wm. Morris.

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MS 76  
BX 12  
NBK 21

THE MORRISES OF KANAWHA COUNTY AND  
THEIR WAYNE COUNTY KIN.

By F.B. Lambert

*Barboursville, W. Va.*

Among the most distinguishes families in Kanawha County, or in all this section of what is now West Virginia, was the family of William Morris. He settled in the Kanawha Valley, at the mouth of Kelly's Creek, in the fall of 1773, or in the Spring of 1774, and thus became the first permanent <sup>s</sup>settler in the Kanwaha Valley. Kanawha County, at that time, embraced nearly all of the present state of West Virginia, south of the Kanawha River, including the present counties of Wayne, Lincoln and Cabell counties, Mingo, most of Logan, Boone, and other counties.

Last week the Wayne County News published a copy of the main portion of a partition deed showing that a number of William Morris' descendants intermarried with some of the early pioneer families of Wayne County. Believing that an explanation of these connections may be of value in enabling a lot of Wayne County people to trace their family histories with greater accuracy, I am giving, in this paper, a short history of the Morris family, with special emphasis on their Wayne County descendants. These ~~M~~orrises were among our most noted pioneers, and pioneers they were, indeed.

X George W. Atkinson, in his History of Kanawha County, p.49, says: "They are the most remarkable family that has yet been mentioned in our border warfare". Other historians, including Virgial A. Lewis, were fully in accord with Governor Atkinson.

William Morris was born near London, England Jan.1, 1722. He was of Welsh descent. Laidley, the Kanawha County historian ~~says~~, in the April number of the West Virginia Historical Magazine 1904, states th t when William Morris was ~~boy~~ of about twelve years of age, he was playing about the Scotch yards, in London, which place was a police headquarters, and near the Thames River. Out of curiosity, the boy went aboard a ship. Without warning, it sailed, and he found himself on the way to America. The owner of the ship, a Philadelphian merchant, took a liking to the boy, and took him into his homw, and wrote William's father, asking permission to let him stay in America. This was granted, and he stayed in Philadelphia until he became a grown man.

About 1744, he came to Orange county, where he married a beautiful young woman, <sup>Elizabeth Stepps</sup> and made his home in that section of Orange County that later became Culpepper County, until he came to Kanawha County some months before the Battle of Point Pleasant.

Walter Kelly was really the first settler at the mouth of Kelly's Creek in 1773. He built his cabin here, but was surprised and killed by the Indians, and his family went back to the East. Mr. Morris moved into the Kelly cabin, and the other members of his family built their homes in the vicinity. In later years, Mr. Morris gave each of the Kelly boys a horse, saddle, and bridle, to show them that he had not intended to treat them unfairly.

The Indians, at that time, were becoming hostile, and he and his sons built Fort Morris near their homes. He and his sons, John and Henry Morris were in the Battle of Point Pleasant, and as defenders of Fort Morris, and the Virginia frontier, and as

border scouts. They were Revolutionary soldiers. All his sons and sons-in-law were Indian fighters. There was not a coward *Coward* among them, and even the women were ready to assist in battle, as well as in the necessary work of their homes.

William Morris married Elizabeth Stepps, of Orange County. She was born in 1729, and died in 1793, not long after the death of her husband, *who died* ~~on~~ December 1, 1792.

William and Elizabeth Morris had eight sons and two daughters, as follows:

- I. William Morris, known as "Major". Billy Morris was born Dec. 17, 1746. He married Catherine Carroll May 10, 1778. He served several terms in the Virginia Legislature, and was otherwise quite prominent.
- II. Henry Morris married Mary Bird of Bath County, Virginia. Two of his daughters were murdered by Indians in 1792, and he is said never to have lost an opportunity to kill any of them that he could find.
- III. Leonard Morris  

Married first	_____	Price
Married second	_____	Likens
- IV. Joshua Morris  

Married Frances Simms. He and his brother, John Morris, settled in Cabell County. He was the progenitor of the Morris families who lived above Milton ~~who lived above Milton~~ and at Dusenberry Dam, now known as Martha Walter Morris, founder of the Children's Hospital, near Milton, and Buford Tynes, former Congressman from this District, were descendants of this family.
- V. John Morris came to Cabell County very early, and settled

near the present site of Ona. He married Margaret Drodgy. He was born in 1751, and died in 1818. Margaret Drodgy was born in 1778, in Augusta County, Va., and died in August, 1818. They had a large family of children of whom four became prominent.

Thomas A. Morris became a Bishop in the Methodist Church. John Morris, Jr. was a Baptist minister, and removed to Lawrence County, Ohio. Calvary Morris removed to Ohio, and I believe, became a member of Congress. Edmund Morris was first County Clerk of Cabell County.

VI. Carroll Morris married Elizabeth Jarrett. This family removed to another state, and little is known about them.

VII. Levi Morris, born 1763, died 1834, married first Margaret Starke. After her death he married, *in* 1778, Peggy (Margaret) Jarrett, who was the mother of most, if not all his children. These will be given later in this article.

VIII. Benjamin Morris married Nancy Jarrett. They were the ancestors of Morris Harvey, for whom Morris-Harvey College was named.

*IX. Elizabeth Morris married Michael See John Jones.*  
~~IX.~~ Frances Morris, known as "Frankey") married ~~Michael See.~~

The member of this family in whom Wayne County is most interested was Levi Morris. After his marriage to Margaret Starke he is said to have left Culpepper County and lived in Alexandria, Virginia, near Washington D.C. He came to the Kanawha Valley with the rest of the Morris family, and acquired a large boundary of land, at, or near the present site of Montgomery, Fayette County. His brother, Benjamin Morris, is said

to have built the first cabin on the site of Montgomery. Thus, Levi Morris became the first settler in Fayette County.

*His children were*

1. Cynthia Morris, who married Major Lawrence H. Brannon a hatter by trade. They had but one child, Amanda Brannon. She died July 3, 1851, leaving six children. Her husband was James C. Montgomery, founder of the City of Montgomery, W. Va. The Mongomeries were highly respected citizens of Fayette County. It will be noted that she was an heir to the Levi Morris estate, her mother having died before it was settled.
2. William Morris married Sarah Spurlock, sister to Rev. Burwell Spurlock, Jan. 23, 1812. He was prominent, in the early days of Wayne County, serving, I believe as its first Sheriff. He died March 5, 1879, aged 88 years, two months and thirteen days. This would place his birth Jan. 2, 1791. He and his wife were the parents of several children, and have many descendants in Wayne County. Among these were William Morris, Jr., Levi Morris, who married Electra Spurlock, daughter of Rev. Burwell Spurlock by his second wife, Erasmus Morris, a well known school teacher of the pioneer type, Margaret Morris, and Anna E. Morris.
3. Benjamin Morris married Amanda Hamilton.
4. James Morris married Sarah Shelton.
5. George married Sarah Hamilton.
6. Frances Morris married William Spurlock, brother of Rev. Burwell Spurlock. They had a large family, and both died in the cholera epidemic.



William Spurlock died June 4, 1833, and his wife followed him on the 10th of the same month. This much dreaded disease first came to the United States in 1832. My father's maternal grandparents, Armstrong Rankin and wife, who lived above Marion, Lawrence County, Ohio, died with the same disease in 1849, and were both buried the same day. William and Frances Spurlock left a large family, all of whom were heirs to the Levi Morris estate, and were named in the deed of partition published in this paper last week. They were:

- a. Cynthia Spurlock, who married John Hatten, said to have been a son of Samuel Hatten, Jr (second) of Big Sandy river in Wayne County. Johnston Hatten lived in South Point, Ohio, and had several children. Most of this family went to Missouri, and other sections.
- b. Julia Ann Spurlock married <sup>John</sup> Samuel Dean. (*John Dean?*)
- c. ~~Sarah~~ Spurlock married Samuel Dean, brother to John and Joseph Dean, and others. Joseph Dean was an ancestor of Herman P. Dean, of Huntington and Wayne County.
- d. Evaline Spurlock married Shadrick Harriman, and lived in Kanawha County.
- e. Caroline Spurlock married
- f. Martha Ann Spurlock married George Roberts Burgess. They lived in Wayne county and had a large family. She was born March 31, 1820; he in 1813. They married in 1838. Their children were:

- 1. Judge Goble G. Burgess, who married Barbara Ferguson
- 2. Dr. George Robert Burgess married Clara Ferguson.
- 3. Rev. Strother Burgess married ~~E. Caroline~~ Kinnes.
- 4. John B. Burgess married Era Garrett.



5. William Burgess married Tacy Holmes.

6. Octavia Burgess married George W. Andrews,

7. Sarah Burgess married David Kinnes.

8. Susan Margaret Burgess married John B. Wellman. They had two children:

a. William McGuffey Wellman,

b. Ceres Wellman.

9. Amelia Burgess

Married Perry Powell

10. Virginia Burgess

Married Columbus Prichard

11. Charity Burgess married

Davis Martin,

12. Alice Burgess

Married Prof. Taylor B. McClure

13. Catherine Burgess

Married Albert Strother.

14. Lenora Burgess

~~Died in~~ infancy

g. Marshall Spurlock

Married

Moved to Ray County,

Missouri.

7. — Elizabeth Morris, daughter of Levi and Margaret Morris, married Rev. Burwell Spurlock, of Wayne County. He was a Methodist preacher; and was, without doubt, the greatest country preacher that this section of Wayne County has ever produced. In this union were born four children:

a. Cassender Spurlock, married Bertha Booten Dec.

23, 1832. She died August 4, 1856, at 45 years 5 months, and fifteen days.

They had a large family. She was a daughter of Reuben Booten, Sr., and his wife, Mary Booten.

- b. Nero Spurlock married Samuel Booth , and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Booth, daughter of Samuel Ferguson I Charley Booth lived near Wayne, and was the progenitor of all the Booths of Wayne County.
- c. Roxanna Spurlock, dau. of Rev. Burwell Spurlock, by first wife. She married Asa Booten, II, and their descendants are numerous.
- d. Levi Spurlock

To give a full account of all Morris's and their descendants would require a large volume; but I believe this will make clear the background of the pioneer descendants of Levi Morris in Wayne County. I would be glad to hear from anyone interested in any of these families, or any other pioneer family of this section.

~~WFO~~ History Notes

Barboursville, W. Va.,

March 20, 1950.

Editor the Wayne County News,

Wayne, W. Va.

Dear Sir:

I am sending you copy of an interesting partition deed, by the heirs of William Morris, Sr., the pioneer settler of Kanawha County. In fact, he was the first settler in the entire Kanawha Valley. The interesting thing for us is that a number of his descendants inter-married among Wayne county pioneers, and at this late date, it is doubtful whether many <sup>of them</sup> people now know about it. I am giving this information to aid a lot of people who might be interested in compiling more complete family histories. Every person who is a lineal descendant of William Morris, Sr. is eligible for membership in the D.A.Rs. or the S.A.Rs.

I will later give a more extended account of some of these families.

Very truly,

F. B. Lambert

✓

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March 4, 1950.

Kanawha County, W.Va.

Deed Bk K, p. 80

Sept. 10, 1837.

This Indenture of Partition, made this 10th day of September A.D. 1837, by and between Amanda Brannon, daughter of Cynthia Hatten, of the first part, William Morris of the second part, Benjamin Morris, of the third part, James Morris, of the fourth part, Geo. W Morris, of the fifth part, Johnston Hatton, of the sixth part, and Cynthia, his wife, <sup>John Dean and Julia Ann, his wife,</sup> Samuel Dean and Sarah, his wife, <sup>Harriman</sup> Shadrack ~~Hammon~~ and Evaline his wife; George Burgess and Martha, his wife; William Spurlock and Caroline, his wife, and Marshall Spurlock; the said Cynthia, Julia Ann, Sarah, Evaline, William, Caroline <sup>Martha</sup> and Marshall, being the children and heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased, who was a daughter and heir of Levi Morris, deceased, sixth part; and Cassander Spurlock, Samuel Booth, and Merð. his wife; Asa Booten and Rozanna, his wife, and Levi Spurlock, the said Cassander, Merð, Rozanna, and Levi being the children and heirs of Elizabeth Spurlock, deceased, who was a daughter and heir of the said Levi Morris, deceased, of the seventh part; and Margaret Morris, widow of said Levi Morris, deceased, of the seventh part, and Margaret Morris, widow of said Levi Morris, deceased, of the eighth part.

WITNESSETH, That Whereas, at a Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery held for the County of Kanawha, on the third day of May, 1837, the said Court entered the following decree in a cause therein pending, to-wit:

Amanda Brannon, by her next friend, Lawrence H. Brannon vs. William Morris, and others (the heirs and distributors of Levi Morris, deceased) in Chancery. The Court proceeding to

consider the partition made of the realty and of the slaves, and the personal property, as reported, doth adjudge, order and decree, that the Complainant, Amanda Brannon, and the Defendants, severally, and by apt and proper deeds of conveyance and special warranty, convey and assure, each to the other, the several lots of land which have been apportioned to each in severalty; that is to say to the said Amanda Brannon, in right of her late mother, Cynthia Morris, deceased, Lot No.1 containing 130 acres, and Lot No.6 of coal land containing 19 acres.

To the said Benjamin Morris, in his own right, Lot No.2 containing 124 acres, and Lot No.5, of coal land containing 14-1/4 acres.

To Cynthia Hatton, wife of Johnston Hatton; Julia Ann Dean, wife of John Dean; Sarah Dean, wife of Samuel Dean; Evaline Harriman, wife of Shadrach Harriman, last man killed by Indians, 1794; Martha Burgess, wife of George Burgess, William Spurlock, Marshall Spurlock and Caroline Spurlock, being heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased, late a daughter and heir of said Levi Spurlock deceased, Lot No.3, containing 128 acres, and Lot No.4, containing 13--1/2 acres of coal land.

To James morris, in his own right, Lot No.4, containing 173 acres, and Lot No.2 containing 13-1/4 acres of coal land.

To William Morris, in his own right, Lot No.5, containing 154 acres, and Lot No.1, containing 11-1/4 acres of coal land.

To George W.Morris, in his own right, Lot No.6, containing 94 acres, and Lot No.3, containing 11-1/2 acres of coal land.

To Cassander Spurlock, Mero Booth, wife of Samuel Booth, Roxana Booten, wife of Asa Booten, and Levi Spurlock, being the

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children and heirs of Elizabeth Spurlock, deceased, late a daughter and heir of Levi Spurlock, deceased, and who take in right of said Elizabeth (Spurlock), Lot No. 7 containing 124 acres, and Lot No. 7 of coal land containing 17--3/4 acres.

To Margaret Morris, widow of Levi Morris, deceased, as an equivalent for her dower right in realty, of said Levi, the land lying within the following metes and bounds (See plate for metes and bounds)

To have and to hold to her and her assigns, for and during her natural life.

It is further adjudged, ordered, and decreed that the adult defendants, the Plaintiff Amanda Brannon, by her guardian ad litem, who is hereby appointed a Special Commissioner for that purpose; and the infant Defendants, by their guardians, ad litem, respectively, do execute, seal and deliver the deeds of partition hereby directed and acknowledged the same for record, in which Deeds of Partition altogether apt and proper deeds, the said Amanda Brannon shall grant a rent charge on, and out of the land hereby decreed to her, the sum of \$30.00 annually, during the life of the widow, the first of which annual rents is to be paid on the first day of January next to Cynthia Hatton, wife of Johnston Hatton, Julia Ann Dean, wife of John Dean, Sarah Dean wife of Samuel Dean, Evaline <sup>Harriman</sup> ~~Harmon~~, wife of Shadrack <sup>Harriman</sup> ~~Harmon~~, Martha Burgess, wife of George Burgess, William Spurlock, Marshall Spurlock, and Caroline Spurlock, heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased.

For <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ security of the one payment whereof proper covenants and grants are to be inserted on each deed, giving to the said Grantor full power and authority to enforce the payment thereof by entry and distress in such manner and form as may lawfully be resorted to between landlord and tenant. And for the further se-



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curity for the due payment of the rent charge, aforesaid, which is declared hereby to be a lien upon the land herein decreed and partitioned to the said <sup>Amanda</sup>~~Amanda~~ Brannan liberty is reserved to the said Grantees of said rent charge to apply to this Court by petition for such further decree as may be necessary to enforce the lien aforesaid. By which deed of partition, or by other apt and proper deed, the said Benjamin Morris shall also grant a rent charge and create a lien on and out of the land partitioned to him, with the same covenants, parts, and provisions for securing the said sum of \$30.00 to be paid by him annually to Cynthia Hatton, wife of Johnston Hatton, Julia Ann Dean, wife of John Dean, Sarah Dean wife of Samuel Dean, Evaline <sup>Harriman</sup>~~Hammon~~, wife of Shadrack <sup>Harriman</sup>~~Hammon~~, Martha Burgess, wife of George Burgess, William Spurlock, Marshall Spurlock, and Caroline Spurlock, heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased, commencing at the same time and ending in the same event as herein provided in relation to the rent charge payable by the said Amanda Brannan, and with the same remedies and reservations, and by the said Deed of Partition, or by other apt and proper deed, the said George W. Morris shall also grant a rent charge and create a lien on and out of the land partitioned to him of \$30.00. five dollars whereof shall be paid by him annually to Cynthia, wife of Johnston Hatton, Julia Ann, wife of John Dean, Sarah, wife of Samuel Dean, Evaline, wife of Shadrock Harriman, Martha, wife of George Burgess, William Spurlock, Marshall Spurlock, and Caroline Spurlock, heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased; and the remaining \$25.00 shall be paid by the said George W. Morris, to the said James Morris; and the said



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rent charge so payable by the said George W. Morris, ~~to the said James Morris, and the said rent charge so payable by the said George W. Morris~~ shall be a lien upon the land hereby partitioned to him, the deed for granting which shall contain the same covenants, grants, and provisions for securing the same to the respective Grantees in their several partitions, commencing at the same time, and ending in the same event as is herein provided in relation to the rent charge payable by the said Amanda Brannan, and with the same remedies and reservations, and by the said Deed of Partition, or by other apt and proper deed, the said Cassander Spurlock, Mero, wife of Samuel Booth, Roxalana, wife of Asa Booten, and Levi Spurlock, heirs of Elizabeth Spurlock, deceased, shall also grant a rent charge, and create a lien on and out of the land patented to them with the same covenants, grants, and provisions for securing the said sum of \$30.00, to be paid by them, the said heirs of Elizabeth Spurlock, deceased, to the said heirs of Frances Spurlock, deceased, commencing at the same time and ending in the same event, as is herein provided, in relation to the rent charge, payable by the said Amanda Brannan, and with the same remedies and reservations; and if the said deed of partition and deed creating the lien and rent charges aforesaid are not prepared, executed, and acknowledged for record within sixty days, that then and in that event, James M. Laidley, who is hereby appointed a Special Commissioner for that purpose, do purpose, execute, seal, and deliver, for record and acknowledge the deeds aforesaid, for and in behalf of each of the several persons hereby directed to be granted therein, as well infants

as adults, so failing to execute the deeds aforesaid--all of which will more fully and at large appear in reference to the record and proceedings of said court in the aforesaid suit.

Now, Therefore, this Indenture further Witnesseth, That  
for and in consideration of

(Here, deeds were included to each of the heirs, and the following signatures were made:)

Amanda Brannan,  
Benjamin Morris,  
Geo.W.Morris,  
Cynthia Hatten,  
Julia Ann Dean,  
Sarah Dean,  
Emmeline Hemman, *Harriman*  
Martha Burgess,  
Caroline Spurlock,  
Cassandra Spurlock,  
Mero Boothe,  
Roxalana Booten.

Rec. Oct. 14, 1807.